

We don't have anything you could put your feet into now and make it solid. Secretary McNamara and the staff people are working on that. As soon as we can get anything that is an approximation, more or less, I will be glad to give it to you. I don't know just when that will be.

I don't want to have a press conference, but I don't want to preclude any questions if you have any. I don't want to interfere with George's briefing, either.

Q. Mr. President, where did your off-the-record stop?

THE PRESIDENT. When I finished talking about the prognostications.

Q. The fresh-air taxi?

Q. Mr. President, have you decided what delegation you are taking with you to the Manila Conference?

THE PRESIDENT. No. There will be two groups. I think I made clear the leaders of these countries I am visiting have called on me in recent months. I am (a) returning their visit; and I am (b) going back to the scenes of my childhood, so to speak, at least in two or three of the countries involved.

After that I will be going on to the Manila Conference. Both Secretary Rusk and Secretary McNamara will go, probably, direct to Manila, and the staff people accompanying them.

I will go, as you have been told, first to Honolulu, then to New Zealand, then Australia, to meet with the leaders of those countries.

Secretary McNamara will take whomever he chooses for his staff; Secretary Rusk the same way. Mr. Komer will join us there. Mr. Rostow will be going the whole trip with me.

Q. Mr. President, you said you might be meeting with Budget people within hours or days. Are you expecting to have them in over the weekend?

THE PRESIDENT. On what?

Q. I thought I understood you to say you would be meeting with the Budget people for hours and days.

THE PRESIDENT. As he feeds in the figures to us, we will be reviewing them with them.

Q. Will you have time to do that before you go to Manila?

THE PRESIDENT. I haven't a schedule on it. I think there has been some progress in the Congress. I asked the Director this morning to give me another review of the appropriation and authorization bills.

Q. Mr. President, some of us have looked on Mr. McNamara's trip and this trip as kind of a prelude to your trip in the sense that they are reporting to you on what will be passed on by the other people. Is that so?

THE PRESIDENT. No. The trips are independent of each other. He would have gone if we had not had the Manila Conference, or if we had had one in November. But what he brought back is not off limits. We will consider it and evaluate it.

Q. I was wondering, does it add up to a favorable background of developments as the basis for the Manila Conference?

THE PRESIDENT. I think that he brought us a pretty objective review of what has taken place there. There are some things we are very pleased with, some things that we want very much to improve.

As I say, our military effort, we think, is going very well. We think our pacification effort can stand a great deal of improvement.

Is that a fair statement to make?

Mr. KATZENBACH. Yes, sir; and I think it has to be improved.

Q. What has gone wrong with the pacification, Mr. President? What has gone wrong with pacification? Why has it taken a turn for the worse? Some months ago there seemed to be some bright hopes about how it was proceeding.

Mr. KATZENBACH. The concept of pacification is absolutely a sound concept. I have no question about that. It is difficult to execute.

One of the things that I learned out there was how difficult it was to do it because of just the peculiar nature of this war. We have to make much better efforts to get security into more areas and to get it effectively in there in order to make your programs of education, medical care, improved farming methods, and so forth, working.

But we have the prime problem of getting more effective security into these areas. That is primarily a Vietnamese responsibility. It has to be organized so that we can get it.

THE PRESIDENT. The big problem is to get it and to keep it. You can get it today and it will be gone next week. That is the problem. You have to have enough people to clear it out and enough people to preserve what you have done. That is the \$64 problem.

Mr. KATZENBACH. It is to make it possible for people to sleep safely.

REPORTER. Thank you, Mr. President.

NOTE: The briefing was in progress at 4 p.m. in the President's office at the White House. As printed, the remarks follow the text released by the White House Press Office.

Conservation Bills

The President's Remarks at the Signing Ceremony. October 15, 1966

Secretary Udall, Senator Mansfield, Senator Jackson, Senator Bible, Congressman O'Brien, Senators from the States involved, Members of Congress, Mrs. Johnson, ladies and gentlemen:

We have come here this morning to give part of our country back to its people.

When our forefathers came here they found nature's masterpiece. They found a beautiful, rich, varied, fertile land, a whole continent to farm and to hunt on, and to explore.

As Robert Frost said, "The land was ours before we were the land's. She was our land more than a hundred years before we were her people."

Our pioneer fathers made this beautiful land a great nation. But when the wave of settlement reached the Pacific, it turned back upon itself. America began to exploit the land. We chopped down its forests. We abused its soil. We built upon its beaches.

Some Americans realized our loss—Gifford Pinchot, John Muir, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, Harold Ickes. They saw that America could be great only as long as Americans could commune with the land. They were the architects of American conservation.

Today our crowded country thanks them—thanks them for their courage and for their vision, and for their generosity.

This year, we reach a milestone in the history of conservation. This year, thanks to the 89th Congress, we will restore more land for more parks, for more playgrounds for our children to use, than we will lose to housing ventures, to highways, to airports, and to shopping centers.

We are creating recreation areas where they will do the most good for the greatest number, for all of our people—near our cities, where most of our people live. We are putting national parks and seashores where a man and his family can get to them.

The father that is the mechanic can load his five children in his car, and in an hour or 2 hours, or 3 hours, take them to a nearby playground.

The 89th Congress has done all of this. It has enacted 20 major conservation measures.

Today we pay tribute to that Congress.

Today we establish by act of Congress:

—The Guadalupe Mountain National Park in Texas. That is a great tribute to the Senator from Texas, Senator Yarborough, who has been the outstanding leader in conservation in that State.

—The Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in Michigan.

—The Big Horn Canyon National Recreation Area in Montana.

—The Wolf Trap Farm Park in Virginia.

We increase the land in the Point Reyes National Seashore in California. And if we don't stop Mrs. Johnson going out there we will increase it some more, I am afraid.

I am also signing today the Endangered Species Preservation Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. Both of these will help us to preserve for our children the heritage of this great land we call America that our forefathers first saw.

The bills that I will now sign help enrich the spirit of America.

These acts of Congress help assure that this land of ours—this gift that is outright from God—shall be the most precious legacy that we leave.

I want to express my gratitude to the leaders of the parks movements, the recreation areas, the State commissions and their executive directors, for their enlightened interest, for their support, and particularly for the presence of a good many of them this morning.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:18 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. As enacted, the bills signed by the President are as follows:

H.R. 698 (Guadalupe Mountain National Park, Tex.)	Public Law 89-667
H.R. 8678 (Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Mich.)	Public Law 89-668
H.R. 9424 (Endangered species preservation)	Public Law 89-669
S. 491 (Big Horn Canyon National Recreation Area, Mont.)	Public Law 89-664
S. 1607 (Point Reyes National Seashore, Calif.)	Public Law 89-666
S. 3035 (National historic preservation)	Public Law 89-665
S. 3423 (Wolf Trap Farm Park, Va.)	Public Law 89-671

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The President's Remarks Upon Signing Bill To Create the New Department. October 15, 1966

Secretary Connor, Secretary Fowler, Senator Mansfield, Senator McClellan, Senator Jackson, distinguished Speaker McCormack, Chairman Dawson, Congressman Holifield, Mrs. Congresswoman Dwyer, other Members of Congress, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished Mayors:

We are deeply grateful for your presence in the East Room of the White House today.

In a large measure, America's history is a history of her transportation.